

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2635

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECE CSCE PFOR ENRG ETRN SENV

SUBJ: ECE 31ST SESSION: APRIL 6 WESTERN CAUCUS DISCUSSION
OF SOVIET PROPOSAL

REF: (A) GENEVA 2572 (B) STATE 81985 (C) GENEVA 2541

1. WESTERN CAUCUS MET FOR SEVERAL HOURS APRIL 6 TO
CONSIDER, INTE ALIA, WESTERN RESPONSE TO SOVIET PROPOSALS
FOR CONFERENCES. EC-9 TABLED DRAFT LANGUAGE, TEXT OF
WHICH FOLLOWS IN PARA 2, BY AND LARGE INCORPORATING
SALIENT POINTS FROM UK DRAFT OF WHICH WE WERE GIVEN
GLIMPSE YESTERDAY (REF A). EC-9 FEEL THIS TEXT COULD
EITHER BE INCORPORATED INTO OMNIBUS FUTURE ACTIVITIES
RESOLUTION OR INCLUDED IN SUMMARY RECORD AND REPORT OF
31ST SESSION.

2. BEGIN TEXT

THE COMISSION RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECTS
DEALTH WITH BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
AND NOTED THE PARTICULAR INTEREST EXPRESSED BY SOME
GOVERNMENTS IN THE PROPOSAL FOR THE CONVENING OF ALL
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EUROPEAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCES ON THE QUESTIONS

OF CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT AND ENERGY.
THE COMMISSION DREW TO THE ATTENTION OF THE
RELEVANT PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES THE TOPICS
SUGGESTED FOR STUDY AT THE PROPOSED ALL EUROPEAN CON-
FERENCES ON THE QUESTIONS OF CO-OPERATION IN THE
FIELDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT AND
ENERGY;
THE COMMISSION INVITED THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO
REPORT TO THE XXXII SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
EXTENT TO WHICH THESE TOPICS ARE COVERED IN EXISTING WORK
PROGRAMMES, AND ON THE TIME AND RESOURCES ALLOCATION
WHICH FURTHER STUDY WOULD REQUIRE IN EACH CASE;
THE COMMISSION DREW TO THE ATTENTION OF MEMBER
GOVERNMENTS THE DISCUSSION IN THE PLENARY SESSION OF
THE XXXI COMMISSION ON THE PROPOSALS FOR ALL EUROPEAN
CONFERENCES AND SUGGESTED TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS THAT
THEY MIGHT WISH, IN THE LIGHT OF THAT DISCUSSION
AND OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT, TO PROCEED TO
A THROUGH STUDY OF THE PROPOSALS. END TEXT

3. CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ENSUED. WE REITERATED
POINTS CONTAINED IN OUR INITIAL INSTRUCTIONS, AND
FURTHER DREW ON SUBSTANCE OF PARAS. 3-5 OF REF B.
WE STRESSED, AS WE HAVE ON ALL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THE
NECESSITY OF TREATING SOVIET PROPOSAL IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC
PROJECTS AND, PARTICULARLY, THE DANGER IN LIMITING
ANY FINAL LANGUAGE ONLY TO THREE AREAS RAISED BY
SOVIETS. RE THE TERM "ALL-EUROPEAN", BELGIAN AMBASSADOR,
SPEAKING FOR EC-9, NOTED OUR CONCERN(AND THAT OF CANADA)
AND SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT PROBLEM IN EXCISING THAT
PHRASE FROM EC LANGUAGE, PERHAPS SUBSTITUTING PHRASE
"ECE-WIDE".

4. EC-9 EXPRESSED STRONG OPPOSITION TO SEPARATE
RESOLUTION ON CONFERENCES, WHILE NEUTRALS
WERE OPEN REGARDING FORM BUT STRESSED
IMPORTANCE OF SUBSTANCE; E.G. THAT FINAL DECISION ON
CONFERENCES AND DECISIONS AT BELGRADE SHOULD NOT BE
PREJUDGED. LATTER GROUP ALSO SAID THEY SAW NO HARM IN
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MENTIONING AUTHORSHIP OF INITIATIVES AND SOVIET OFFER TO
HOST ENERGY CONFERENCE. EC, CANADA, US AND OTHERS,
HOWEVER, EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT RE MENTION OF SOVIET HOSTSHIP,
FEELING THIS WOULD TEND TO PREJUDGE ISSUE.
SWITZERLAND OPPOSED INVOLVEMENT OF ECE PRINCIPAL
SUBSIDIARY BODIES, DISTRACTING THEM FROM WORK PROGRAMS.
IN RESPONSE BELGIUM POINTED OUT THAT PARA 2 OF
EC DRAFT ONLY BROUGHT SOVIET-PROPOSED TOPICS TO

THEIR ATTENTION, THE LEAST THAT COULD BE DONE, WHILE
PARA 3 INDICATED NO ACTION BY PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY
BODIES AT PRESENT.

5. WESTERN CAUCUS CHAIRMAN (UK AMBASSADOR) AT END
OF DISCUSSION ON SUBJECT, SUMMARIZED WESTERN THINKING
AS FOLLOWS: A) EC-9 HAS FORMULATED DRAFT LANGUAGE
FOR RESOLVING PROBLEM; B) THERE SHOULD BE MENTION OF
SOVIET INITIATIVE IN WHATEVER DOCUMENT EMERGES BUT NO
REFERENCE TO SOVIET INVITATION TO HOST ENERGY CONFERENCE;
C) THERE MUST NOT RPT NOT BE ANY PREJUDGING, EITHER OF
OUTCOME OF CONFERENCES QUESTION OR OF POSSIBLE DECISIONS
WHICH MAY BE TAKEN AT BELGRADE; D) THE CONSENSUS IS
THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO SEPARATE RESOLUTION, OPINION BEING
DIVIDED ON INCORPORATING INTO OMNIBUS RESOLUTION OR
SESSION SUMMARY REPORT. (IN THIS CONTEXT, MALTA MADE
INTERESTING SUGGESTION THAT PERHAPS MATTER COULD BE
DEALT WITH BY HAVING CHAIRMAN REFER TO IT IN SUMMARIZING
DISCUSSION IN PLENARY ON AGENDA ITEM CONCERNING SOVIET
PROPOSAL. HE CONTEMPLATED AGREED TEXT ON MATTER THAT
WOULD CONSTITUTE THIS SUMMING UP.)

6. OUR VIEW IS THAT EC-9 DRAFT NEEDS WORK, (E.G. IT STILL
TENDS TO BE REACTION TO THREE SOVIET-PROPOSED SUBJECTS),
BUT FEEL WE CAN LET EC HAVE ANOTHER DAY TO TAKE OUR AND
OTHER'S VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT. ALSO, CLEARER PICTURE
MAY EMERGE AFTER TODAY'S E-W CONTACT GROUP MEETING.
AT WHICH SOVIET PROPOSAL WILL DOMINATE DISCUSSION.
WE FEEL THAT ADAPTATION OF APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE FROM
OUR DRAFT (REF C) TAKEN TOGETHER WITH
REFERENCE TO PLENARY "DECISION" ON PRIORITY PROJECTS
(OUR AND NORWEGIAN JOINT EFFORT, WHICH HAS RECEIVED GENERALLY
FAVORABLE RESPONSE IN WESTERN CAUCUS) MAY BE WAY
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FOR US TO GENERALLY GO ALONG WITH EC-9 DRAFT.
WE SUGGEST THAT ONE IMPROVEMENT IN EC TEXT MIGHT BE INCLUSION
IN FIRST PARA AFTER "NOTED" THE FOLLOWING PHRASE:
"THE DECISIONS OF THE 31ST SESSION FOR PRIORITY
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF ECE ACTI-
VITY AND SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDING".

7. SUBJECT WILL COME UP FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AT NEXT
WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING TOMORROW MORNING. DALE

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